

**DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD (DAB) I  
MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, July 25, 2005**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Atwater Community Center, 2755 E. 19<sup>th</sup>, Wichita, Kansas 67214**

**Members Present**

Council Member Carl Brewer  
Gerald Domitrovic  
Treatha Brown-Foster  
Lois Tully-Gerber  
Lori Lawrence  
Debra K. Miller Stevens  
Shontina Pickens-Tipton\*  
Michael Ross\*  
Steve Roberts  
Inga Taylor\*  
James Thompson  
LaVonta Williams

**Members Absent**

Sharon Myers  
Debby Moore

**Guests**

Dorothy Nave, 1802 Looman  
Beverly Domitrovic, Schweiter NA  
John Stevens, 3125 E. Boston  
Lonny Wright, 1721 S. Lulu  
Jenae Medlock, 1317 S. Waco  
Pierre Mabry, 7677 E 22<sup>nd</sup> St. Apt. 2407  
Dan Rouser, 1107 N. Pinecrest

**\*Alternates**

**City of Wichita Staff Present**

Virdena Gilkey, Neighborhood Assistant  
Officer Paul Kimble, WPD  
Officer Channara Seang, WPD  
Ryan Adkison, Finance  
Mark Manning, Finance

**Order of Business**

**Call to Order**

**Council Member Brewer** called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. and welcomed the guests. He then asked that those who wished to address the board would please state their name and address and keep their remarks limited to five minutes. No one came forward.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Roberts (Brown Foster)** made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Motion carried 8-0.

**Approval of Agenda**

**Brown Foster (Roberts)** made a motion to accept the agenda as submitted. Motion carried 8-0.

**Public Agenda**

**1. Scheduled Item**

**No item submitted.**

**2. Off-agenda items**

**No item submitted.**

### **Staff Reports**

#### **3. Police Report**

**Officer Seang** reported the following: 1) driveby shootings are down, but auto larcenies are up. More kids are breaking into cars stealing money and items that can be sold; 2) more officers are on bikes for enforcement during the evening hours; 3) the loud music complaint from Treatha Brown Foster has been addressed and a few people have been issued citations; and 4) there are two SCAT Teams on the north side to address gang issues.

*(Officer Seang's response is in italics)*

**Brown Foster** asked if there are certain kinds of cars stolen? *My reference was to auto larceny. Auto burglaries are down.*

**Brewer (Thompson)** made a motion to receive and file. Motion carried 8-0.

#### **4. City of Wichita 2006–2007 Proposed Budget**

**Ryan Atkison and Mark Manning, Finance**, presented to the board the City of Wichita 2006–2007 proposed budget. Atkison explained that the City Council made the decision to not increase the mill levy this budget period and asked staff to figure out ways to meet the budget demands and improvements. He stated that the budget is online for review.

Mr. Manning added that there are two budgets: 1) the detailed budget and 2) the proposed Budget-in-Brief. He stated that staff used benchmarking as a way to explain Wichita's rating in comparison to other cities and jurisdictions. Once the benchmarks have been totally completed, the report will identify areas that Wichita is doing great in and the areas that need improvement. For an example, our Fire Department has great response time, which reveals that our public safety is a positive area.

DAB members thanked staff for receiving information in a timely manner and inquired about the following: the purpose of the Fleet Fund, the 17 new positions for security at City Hall, additional funding support from USD259 for the School Resource Officers; obtaining additional staff for Animal Services; where the Tourism and Convention funds are generated, how will the City generate additional revenue to offset expenditures; the allocation of pension funds, with increase security, will there be any matching funds from Homeland Security, and the decrease in health insurance for employees.

*Staff responded: the Fleet Fund is a self-standing fund. The security will be similar to what the County has and the equipment in Municipal Court will be moved down to the Atrium. Additional staff will be hired to maintain the security. Homeland Security will match funds for equipment only, not salaries. As far as the schools, the City Manager proposes an increase in their contribution in 2007. The amount is approximately \$1.578 million dollars.*

*Staff added that the Tourism and Convention funds are generated by the bed tax. Additional funding will come from the Downtown Arena, the National Bowling Conference, and events that generate revenue. According to State statutes, our expenditures will always be higher than our revenue. It is assumed that we will have to spend more than is allocated. In regards to pension funds, \$800 million dollars is set-aside for pensions. The City used to contribute 28% to the funds and now contributes 14%. The City opened negotiations and solicited more vendors for the employees insurance. Under the new vendor, the rates were adjusted.*

The board made the following comments: in the brief, expenditures are higher than the revenue; it needs to be reflected somewhere in the budget that the School Resource Officers work their beats when school is not in session; \$1.0 million dollars for economic incentives seems a bit low; with one Animal Control Officer for every 100,000 citizens, it seems like we could squeeze out more funding to deal with our animal situation in neighborhoods; the Rails to Trails initiative seems to be at a stand still; although the mill levy has not increased, the property taxes has.

**Council Member Brewer** made the following comments: The council looked at the Art funding and have set aside \$700,000 for the arts. It is our desire to create an Art District, because art is equally as important as tourism, baseball, etc. Places such as Exploration Place, World Treasures Museum and others will be a part of the art district.

The council is also concerned about the City employees and want to ensure that there is a committed fund for wage increases. Costs of Living Allocations (COLA) and raises have been a topic of discussion. The last thing that the City will do is workforce reduction.

Brewer added that on another note, council is also concerned about our revitalization efforts throughout the city. We were recently informed that Senator Sam Brownback was able to secure \$170 million dollars for KTI. Our revitalization plans would cost over \$70 million dollars for the 21<sup>st</sup> Street efforts. The Northeast Revitalization Plan will cost additional dollars and it is uncertain where all of the funding will come from. The council is hearing rumblings about the car tax and how that will affect our city. When reviewing our water system, five or more water mains burst today alone, which is an unexpected expense. All of these issues are hitting us at once and consistently and it is not an easy process to get seven council members with different ideas to reach an agreement when dealing with an extremely complicated budget. The city is experiencing growing pains as we continue to grow. The council wants to ensure that there are no tax increases and that Public Safety funding is not cut period.

*(Council Member Brewer's response is in italics)*

**Taylor** asked if the City is self-insured, where does the lawsuit funds come from? *Out of the \$22 million dollars in reserves. The City Manger is looking at cost comparisons to see if it is better to self-insure or not.*

### **Unfinished Business**

**No items submitted.**

### **New Business**

**No items submitted.**

### **Board Agenda**

#### **5. Updates, Issues, and Reports**

- a) **Brewer** reported that the city of Denver was sued by citizens due to their ban on pit bulls and just won the suit. The Supreme Court ruled in favor of the ban. This ruling should affect every city that has attempted to ban the same breeds.
- b) **Brewer** announced that the National Night Out events would be held August 2, 2005. He said that he would be renting a trolley for every board member and their spouse who would like to tour the events together. Everyone will meet at the trolley at Wichita State University on the corner of Hillside and 21<sup>st</sup> Street at 6:30 p.m. If your neighborhood is hosting an event, let us know and we will try to stop there.

- c) **Brewer** announced District I Coalition Breakfast Meeting will be August 6, 2005, Cisro's Restaurant and the next meeting of DAB I will be August 8, 2005, Atwater Neighborhood City Hall.
- d) **Domitrovic** reported that at the last meeting Dennis Graves, Animal Control, attended the meeting. The next day his staff was out to address the dog complaint and citations were issued. Domitrovic thanked staff for resolving this two yearlong issue.
- e) **Brown Foster** stated that Inga, Shontina, Michael, and Lavonta have not received their certificate of appointments. Virдена responded that staff has been contacted and the certificates will be ready for the DAB Orientation session on Tuesday, July 26<sup>th</sup>.
- f) **Tully-Gerber** reported that the rails at 17<sup>th</sup> Street; east of Oliver has overgrown grass that looks very bad.

**The board received and filed.**

With no further business, **Domitrovic (Roberts)** made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried 8-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virдена Gilkey  
Neighborhood Assistant